



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Tom Perez

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2004

Contact: Dan Parr 240-777-7954

COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ URGES CHANGE IN COUNTY “CARRY-IN, CARRY-OUT” TRASH POLICY IN PARKS

Move would reintroduce trash cans in some County parks

Councilmember Tom Perez has introduced legislation that would put trash cans back into some County parks affected by last year's decision to institute a “carry-in, carry-out” policy for trash in most County parks.

Councilmembers Howard Denis and George Leventhal are co-sponsors of the legislation.

The move by the County, approved last May and fully implemented in December, removed trash cans from all County parks, with the exception of regional and recreational parks. The policy was enacted to save money. A pilot program, initiated in December 2002, involved six parks.

“Any pilot program requires mid-course corrections,” said Councilmember Perez, Lead Councilmember for the Environment. “In some parks, ‘Carry-In, Carry-Out’ did result in less litter and cost savings. However, in Sligo Creek Park it has resulted in a dramatic increase in trash, more money spent keeping up with the litter, and, still, a continuing trash problem. It hasn't been cost-effective.”

“That's not only an aesthetic problem, but it also adversely affects the quality of the stream valley – part of the system that furnishes the water we use in our homes.”

“That's why I am introducing legislation to reintroduce trash cans in stream valley parks with active recreational areas within 100 yards of a stream valley. That would put trash cans back into Sligo Creek Park and other similar parks throughout the County.” ###

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**